

VAMC Saint Louis University Mental Status Examination

Instructions to Administer

1. Orientation and Attention:

Administration: The physician begins the examination by asking: *"What day of the week is it?"*

Allocate one point if the day is correct.

2. Orientation and Attention:

Administration: The physician continues on asking: *"What is the year?"*

Allocate one point if the year is correct.

3. Orientation and Attention:

Administration: The physician asks: *"What state are we in?"*

Allocate one point if the state you are in is correct.

4. Memory:

Administration: The physician instructs the subject the following: *"Now I am going to ask you five objects to remember. I am going to say them to you first, have them repeat them back to me and then I am going to ask you to remember them a little later. It doesn't have to be in the same order. And these objects are: apple, pen, tie, house, car. Can you say them for me?"*

No points given in this item.

5. Calculation and Registration:

Administration: The physician continues on: *"The next question is: You have a hundred dollars and you go to the store. You buy a dozen apples for three dollars and a tricycle for twenty dollars. How much money did you spend?"* Physician waits for an answer and continues on: *"How much do you have left?"*

Allocate one point if the first answer is correct plus two more points if the second answer is correct.

6. Category Naming (time constraint):

Administration: The physician instructs the subject: *"Now, please name as many animals as you can in one minute".*

Allocate points as follows:

- ✓ 0 points for 0-4 animals
- ✓ 1 point for 5-9 animals
- ✓ 2 points for 10-14 animals
- ✓ 3 points for 15+ animals

7. Delayed Recall with interference:

Administration: The physician asks: *"Earlier I gave you those five objects and I asked you to remember them. Can you tell me those five objects I asked about?"*

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Allocate one point for each object recalled correctly.

8. Registration and Digit Span:

Administration: *"Now I am going to give you a series of numbers and I would like you to give them to me backwards. For example, if I say "four", "two" you would say "two", "four"."*

Allocate points as follows:

- ✓ 0 points for the first series of numbers (87).
- ✓ 1 point for the second series of numbers (649).
- ✓ 1 point for the third series of numbers (8537).

9. Clock Drawing:

Administration: Now the physician draws a big circle on the back of the paper and asks: *"This is a clock face. Please put in the hour markers and the time at ten minutes to eleven o'clock".*

Allocate points as follows:

- ✓ 2 points if all clock numbers are present (no additional numbers) and all the numbers are in the correct order and placed approximately in the correct quadrant of the clock face.
- ✓ 2 points if the hour markers are placed and indicating the correct time. The hour marker must be clearly shorter than the minute marker.

10. Visual Spatial:

Administration: The physician tells the subject: *"Also in this piece of paper I would like you to place an X in the triangle".* Waits and continues on: *"Which of the above figures is largest?"*

Allocate points as follows:

- ✓ 1 point if the subject places the X in the triangle.
- ✓ 1 point if the subject points to the square as the largest figure.

11. Story Recall with Executive Function:

Administration: The physician instructs the subject: *"For the last question I am going to tell you a story. Please listen carefully because afterwards, I am going to ask you some questions about it".* Then the physician reads the story and then asks the questions.

Allocate 2 points for each question answered correctly.